Work on NH 57 Bihar

†2531. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction work has not yet been initiated despite allotment of work regarding four-laning of road from Darbhanga to Sakri and Sakri to Jhanjharpur under National Highway No. 57 on East-West corridor under National Highways Authority of India in Bihar; and

(b) if so, its justification and comprehensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The work of 4-laning of National Highway-57 from Darbhanga to Sakri and Sakri to Jhanjharpur section in Bihar, under East West Corridor is in initial stage of progress. The project is awarded at a cost of Rs. 388.23 crore and is targeted to be completed by the year 2008. In the beginning, pace of work is slow, as the contractor is facing difficulties in mobilizing resources and because of the alignment for the stretch which passes through difficult terrain of flood prone areas.

Linking NHs with States

†2532. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of roads in kms. constructed under National Highways at present;

(b) the total amount spent so far on National Highways;

(c) the status of roads at present in the country; and

(d) whether there is any scheme to link National Highways with the States; and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) At present the length of National Highways in the country is 66590 km. The development/construction of National Highways is a continuous process.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

During the current year *i.e.* 2006-07 up to 31st October, 2006, 1793km of length of National Highway is improved/constructed under various National Highways schemes.

(b) Total amount spent for development & maintenance of National Highway during the same period up to 31st October, 2006 is Rs. 4347.88 Crore.

(c) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. National Highways are being kept in traffic-worthy condition within available resources. The State Government concerned is responsible for upkeep of the roads other than National Highway.

(d) National Highways are passing through all the States of the country and connecting all the State's capitals and other important cities/towns.

Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

2533. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy traffic on NH-8 between Delhi and Jaipur, there is an urgent need to construct Expressway Delhi-Jaipur;

(b) whether the Union Finance Minister has declared construction of Expressway Delhi-Jaipur in his budget-speech 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the present status of this Express Highway Project indicating whether it has been included under NHDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The Union Finance Minister in his budget speech announced that the Government has decided to develop 1000 Km. of access controlled Expressways. The section of Delhi-Jaipur was included in his budget speech. Government has also approved construction of 1,000 Km. of Expressways at a cost of Rs. 16,680 crore on 2nd November, 2006 under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VI.